

**Media Release:**

**23.03.09**

## **Youth Week at the Alice Springs Desert Park**

The Alice Springs Desert Park is celebrating National Youth Week by offering 12 – 20 year olds the exclusive opportunity to learn to be a zookeeper at the Park from Monday 30 March to Friday 3 April 2009.

Alice Springs Desert Park Sales and Marketing Manager Claire Ashard said teenagers and young adults will get the chance to join in the fun and help the evening team by assisting in food preparation, feeding and caring for the animals.

“The Desert Park supports the aims of National Youth Week to help young people showcase their talents, celebrate their contribution to society and to have fun,” Ms Ashard said.

“During this peek behind-the-scenes our honorary zookeepers will get to work with some of Australia’s most threatened species, including the Mala and the Bilby.”

Ms Ashard said that the 2009 National Youth Week theme “Make a Move” is fitting because this opportunity is about engaging with youth and showing them how they can make a move towards developing a passion for our unique desert environment.

“When people visit the Desert Park they learn how the Australian Desert is a land full of surprises and is home to some of the oldest and most remarkable cultures, environment and wildlife.

“The aim of this exclusive opportunity is to encourage the next generation to continue to deliver this message and invigorate a passion for our amazing environment.

“However places are limited to two people per night so bookings are essential and can be made by phoning the Alice Springs Desert Park on 8951 8788 during business hours.”

National Youth Week is celebrated across Australia from Saturday 28 March to Sunday 5 April 2009.

Ends

**Media Note – for more information contact Claire Ashard on 0401 116 209**

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